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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

May 19, 2015

PR-024/2015

U.S. Ambassador Congratulates Newest Mandela Washington Fellows

The U.S. Embassy and Consulate General today recognized 40 young Nigerians selected to participate in the 2015 Mandela Washington Fellowship. The Mandela Washington Fellowship is the flagship program of the President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and a key component of President Barack Obama's commitment to invest in the future of Africa. The White House developed this initiative in recognition of the critical and increasing role that young Africans are playing in strengthening democratic institutions, spurring economic growth, and enhancing peace and security in Africa.

Speaking at a special gathering in Abuja and via satellite in Lagos, U.S. Ambassador James F. Entwistle congratulated the new fellows on their competitive selection amongst 7,000 Nigerian applicants and tens of thousands of others throughout Africa.

"You all should be proud of your accomplishment. Your selection says a lot about who you are as young leaders and the level of impact you are having on your communities as entrepreneurs, civic leaders, and public servants," said Ambassador Entwistle. He added, "You will have the opportunity to meet hundreds of bright and inspiring minds, just like yourselves, from other parts of Africa. Take advantage of the opportunity to learn, to share, and to expand your network."

In 2014, 44 Nigerian fellows comprised part of the inaugural class of Mandela Washington Fellows. Fellows participate in an intensive, six-week program on academic excellence and leadership focused on business and entrepreneurship, civic leadership, and public management at U.S. colleges and universities.

Below is a list of the 2015 fellows, including their disciplines and hosting institutions:

	NAME	DISCIPLINE	UNIVERSITY
1	Alueshima Utasha	Public Management	Florida International University
2	Lukmon Buliamdeen	Business and Entrepreneurship	University of Wisconsin-Stout
3	Ikuba Ona	Civic Leadership	Arizona State University
4	Oluwaseyi Dara	Business and Entrepreneurship	University of Wisconsin-Stout
5	Catherine Edeh	Public Management	University of Minnesota
6	Ibrahim Balami	Business and Entrepreneurship	Clark Atlanta University
7	Nkemdilim Azinge	Civic Leadership	Rutgers University
8	Amina Alkali	Civic Leadership	University of Delaware
9	Grace Jerry	Civic Leadership	University of Virginia
10	Fatu Ogwuche	Public Management	Howard University
11	Rilwan Hassan	Business and Entrepreneurship	Northwestern University
12	Benjamin Dankaka	Public Management	Virginia Commonwealth University
13	Muhammad Saleh	Civic Leadership	Tulane University
14	Rukayya Sani	Civic Leadership	Wagner College
15	Haruna Ndahi	Business and Entrepreneurship	University of Nevada, Reno
16	Bobwealth Omontese	Public Management	Syracuse University
17	Chinomso Ibe	Civic Leadership	Wagner College
18	Abiola Odunaiya	Civic Leadership	University of California Berkeley
19	Chioma Achi	Civic Leadership	University of California Berkeley
20	Jamila Mohammed	Public Management	Syracuse University
21	Mlumum Ikpaahindi	Public Management	University of Minnesota
22	Cynthia Chiamaka Ndubuisi	Business and Entrepreneurship	Dartmouth College
23	Abosede Oluwaseun Lewu	Business & Entrepreneurship	University of Notre Dame
24	Oluwafunmilayo Adebimpe Ilori	Business & Entrepreneurship	Clark Atlanta University
25	Adekunbi Gbemisola Adeoye	Business & Entrepreneurship	University of Texas at Austin
26	Damilola Opeyemi	Business &	Clark Atlanta University

	Sobowale	Entrepreneurship	
27	Anuoluwapo Oluyomi Akinola	Business & Entrepreneurship	Dartmouth College
28	Chioma Ilobekeme Agha	Business & Entrepreneurship	Dartmouth College
29	Ejiro Sharon Okotie	Civic Leadership	Arizona State University
30	Oluwafunmilola Wonsebolatan James	Civic Leadership	Tulane University
31	Glory Chinenye Oguegbu	Civic Leadership	University of Delaware
32	Ayoola Philip Adeniyi	Business & Entrepreneurship	University of Nevada-Reno
33	Oladipo Adesida	Business & Entrepreneurship	University of Nevada-Reno
34	Omotola Samuel Oni	Business & Entrepreneurship	Northwestern University
35	Oluwatimilehin Paul Olagunju	Civic Leadership	University of Virginia/College of William & Mary/Presidential Precinct
36	Olakunle Olusola Ajayi	Civic Leadership	Rutgers University
37	Olusola Samuel Owonikoko	Civic Leadership	Wagner College
38	Williams Kwame Rashidi	Civic Leadership	University of California, Berkeley
39	Olakunle Joel Adewale	Civic Leadership	Tulane University
40	Oluwamayowa Adepeju Salu	Civic Leadership	Arizona State University

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